Resolution supporting United States Senate Bill 4865, introduced on October 26, 2020, by United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), which would increase funding for the federal full-service Community Schools Program from its current level of $30 million to $1 billion per year by fiscal year 2025, as well as add a grant program for states, enhance technical assistance, and promote best practices in Community Schools.

WHEREAS, According the national Institute for Educational Leadership, a community school is defined as a both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement that leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities; and

WHEREAS, Community schools are an effective, evidence-based strategy for school improvement that have the power to transform high-poverty, low-performing schools into thriving learning environments that support the holistic needs of students, families, and communities alike; and

WHEREAS, Locally, San Francisco has benefited from the presence of community school programs at Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 School, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Middle School, and through community initiatives like Mission Promise Neighborhood, and the Beacon Centers which are located at over twenty-five sites across San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, In January 2021, Supervisors Hillary Ronen and Myrna Melgar, in partnership with School Board Commissioner Kevine Boggess, introduced legislation to establish the Students & Families RISE (Recovery with Inclusive and Successful Enrichment)
Workgroup, which will advise the city on post pandemic recovery strategies for schools and create a citywide plan to expand enrichment and academic success services for students and families in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD); and

WHEREAS, A central priority of the Students and Families RISE Workgroup will be to develop a vision and plan, based on best practices locally and around the country, to enhance and grow the community school’s model to help entire families recover from the aftermath of the pandemic, as well as bring strong enrichment programs to every school in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, All throughout California, communities have witnessed the damaging toll that prolonged school closures have had on the academic and personal well-being of students, particularly students from low-income and immigrant families who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 health and economic crises; and

WHEREAS, During the pandemic, individual community schools and systems of community schools have been able to mobilize quickly and effectively to support the social, emotional, physical, and learning needs of students and their families; and

WHEREAS, Community schools are demonstrating, from Florida and North Carolina to New York and elsewhere, how their strong relationships, relational trust, agility, and coordination are helping schools and their communities better respond to and recover from the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The pandemic has presented an opportunity to redesign public education in a way that ensures that all students have access to the foundational supports necessary for learning to address their physical, social, and emotional needs; that they have enriching, high-quality instruction, access to a full curriculum including the arts, social sciences, foreign language, civic education, and Advanced Placement courses, and to out-of-school time
opportunities; and that their families and communities are actively engaged as important partners in their learning and well-being; and

WHEREAS, President Joe Biden has publicly expressed his support for the Community Schools model and has called to expand community schools through funding in his American Rescue Plan; and

WHEREAS, Currently, the federal Full-Service Community Schools program is funded at $30 million supporting 54 communities, but this amount falls far short of the need and demand for this strategy from communities who want to create community schools both to stabilize families that have been most severely impacted during the pandemic and to accelerate learning; and

WHEREAS, The Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act (S. 4865), introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown in November 2020, would meet this need and demand with a significant federal investment in community schools of $500 million for fiscal year (FY) 2021 and increasing to $1 billion by FY 2025; and

WHEREAS, This funding would enable Congress to direct limited resources to the schools and communities where at least 40% of the students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch or are identified by the state as in need of additional support, to optimize the coordination of resources that meet family's basic needs, support the mental health of students, accelerate learning, and support the families’ re-entry into the workforce; and

WHEREAS, Because federal funding for community schools is currently so small compared to the level of demand in the field, the U.S. Department of Education routinely turns down highly ranked, near-perfect score applications, therefore squandering the opportunity to support communities that are committed and ready to apply this strategy to advance educational equity; and
WHEREAS, Passing and funding the Full-Service Community Schools Expansion Act would enable hundreds of these communities to coordinate the assets of their schools, families, and community partners for students’ immediate and long-term success; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco supports United States Senate Bill No. 4865, and urges Congress to include full-service community schools as an allowable use of funding for schools and districts in future COVID-19 relief packages; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco distribute this Resolution to San Francisco’s Federal Legislative Delegation and to California Governor Gavin Newsom.
Resolution supporting United States Senate Bill 4865, introduced on October 26, 2020, by United States Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), which would increase funding for the federal full-service Community Schools Program from its current level of $30 million to $1 billion per year by fiscal year 2025, as well as add a grant program for states, enhance technical assistance, and promote best practices in Community Schools.

February 23, 2021 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 11 - Chan, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani and Walton

File No. 210150

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 2/23/2021 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

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Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

3/5/2021
Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

__________________________
Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

3/5/2021
Date